

**Notice of Allowability**

Application No.

09/917,732

Examiner

Sylvia R MacArthur

Applicant(s)

GUNJI ET AL.

Art Unit

1763

**-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--**

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

- 1.  This communication is responsive to the amendment sent 4/22/04.
- 2.  The allowed claim(s) is/are 1,4-16,19-25,28-33,35 and 36.
- 3.  The drawings filed on 10/012001 are accepted by the Examiner.
- 4.  Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
  - a)  All    b)  Some\*    c)  None    of the:
    - 1.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
    - 2.  Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
    - 3.  Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* Certified copies not received: \_\_\_\_\_.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application. **THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.**

- 5.  A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
  - 6.  CORRECTED DRAWINGS ( as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
    - (a)  including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review ( PTO-948) attached
      - 1)  hereto or 2)  to Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
    - (b)  including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_.
- Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 7.  DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

**Attachment(s)**

- 1.  Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2.  Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3.  Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 4.  Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit of Biological Material
- 5.  Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6.  Interview Summary (PTO-413), Paper No./Mail Date \_\_\_\_\_
- 7.  Examiner's Amendment/Comment
- 8.  Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
- 9.  Other \_\_\_\_\_.

**GREGORY MILLS**  
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER  
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 1700

*Allowable Subject Matter*

1. Claims 1, 14, 16, 25, 33, and 36 are allowed.

2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding claims 1 and 33: The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a drive shaft operable to urge a retaining ring against the polishing surface through the substrate holder body

Regarding claim 14: The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest an inner space is not sealingly engaged with substrate to be held by substrate holding apparatus.

Regarding claims 16 and 25: The prior art of record fails to teach or fairly suggest a hard polishing surface with a modulus of compression.

Regarding 36: The prior art of record fails to teach the retainer ring having radially outer and inner peripheral edges and a groove extending from the radially outer peripheral edge towards the radially inner peripheral edge, and ending short of the radially inner peripheral edge.


Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Sylvia R MacArthur whose telephone number is 571-272-1438. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F during the core hours of 8 a.m. and 2 p.m..


Art Unit: 1763

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory L. Mills can be reached on 703-308-1633. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
Sylvia R MacArthur  
Patent Examiner  
Art Unit 1763

July 20, 2004

  
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